

U.S. Serial No.: 09/873,798

### REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesy extended to applicant's representative, Larry Cullen, during an interview on June 30, 2005.

During the interview, applicant presented a proposed amendment which is substantially the same as above. The examiner indicated that the proposed amendment would overcome applied U.S. Pat. No. 6,765,931 to Rabenko et al. Accordingly, no further response is believed to be necessary at this time.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above application.

Claims 5-23 stand allowed and claim 4 stands objected to as being allowable but being dependent on a rejected claim.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Rabenko, but as amended are believed to be patentable over Rabenko as discussed in the above mentioned interview.

Claims 1, 5 and 15 are independent claims.

Having fully responded to the Office action, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues arise that prevent early allowance of the above application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve such issues.

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To the extent an extension of time is needed for consideration of this response,  
Applicant hereby request such extension and, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to  
charge deposit account number 502117 for any fees associated therewith.

Date: 7/1/05

Respectfully submitted,

By: ETH  
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